

From Powers to Penkovsky

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THOUGH the five-day U.S.S.R. Supreme Court trial of the Anglo-American spy Oleg Penkovsky and his British go-between Greville Wynne ended on May 11, with the death penalty for the first and an 8-year prison term for the second, the imperialist espionage and subversion agencies are still on trial—summoned to answer before the court of world public opinion.

The Penkovsky-Wynne case has given us a closer view of the imperialists' backstage operations against the U.S.S.R. and the other socialist countries, also an insight into the relations between the intelligence services of the Nato countries, particularly the U.S. and Britain.

It is not the first time Western intelligence agencies have tried to coordinate anti-Soviet activity. In 1918 Bruce Lockhart, British spy and diplomat, plotted with his American colleague De Witt Pool against the young Soviet Republic. On the eve of the second world war the Nazi agents sought to weld the Italian, Japanese, Hungarian, Rumanian and Finnish espionage agencies into a united anti-Soviet "secret front."

Immediately after the war the Americans took up where the Nazis had failed. Following CIA negotiations with the allies of the United States in May 1949 a compact was struck entitling it to maintain permanent representatives at the intelligence centres of the Nato coun-

tries and obtain from them secret political, military and economic in-

formation on the U.S.S.R. and the other socialist countries. Little by little the U.S. agency established pretty rigid control over the others, a practice that was formalized at the Nato Council session in Paris in mid-December 1956. Then, when Eisenhower and Macmillan met in the Bermudas in 1957, it was decided to revive the wartime commission of U.S. and British intelligence representatives. In addition a joint centre, integrating U.S., British and Canadian military intelligence officers, was started in London. And reports appeared in the Western press that the Americans were financing certain British intelligence activities.

Who pays the piper calls the tune. Today the CIA bosses its British counterpart and rudely appropriates the fruit of its effort.

Penkovsky served two masters, the Americans and the British. But the relations between the two were far from idyllic. Barely had Penkovsky submitted his first reports to the British, than their senior partners across the water made a grab for this new source of information. The American agency suggested going halves in Penkovsky. The London cloak-and-dagger men were obliged to agree. In this manner was an Anglo-American consortium formed to exploit what the respective espionage chiefs took to be a gold mine for them.

that Penkovsky passed on most of his rolls of film and information to the British and they decided to "pull a fast one" on their junior partners, as Lt. Gen. Artyom Gorny, the Prosecutor, put it. Accordingly, they arranged a separate clandestine rendezvous with Penkovsky in Paris in September 1961 when he was there on business.

Closeted with Penkovsky in a Champs Elysées hotel room, two American agents, known as Alexander and Oslaf, and a "high-ranking U.S. intelligence officer," deplored having to "share" him with the British, and assured him that they valued him more than the Intelligence Service did. CIA chief John McCone had already been told about him, they said, and was prepared to meet him should he ever come to the United States. The interesting point is that they asked him to keep this meeting secret from the British.

As Penkovsky had no objections, Washington's cloak-and-dagger men proceeded to elbow out their British opposite numbers. They put forward the argument that the personal contact the British maintained with Penkovsky via Wynne and Mrs. Janet Ann Chisholm was "unreliable" and should be abandoned in favour of communication via caches.

The British being unable to take exception to this, the Americans suggested their own Moscow cache, in the hallway of 5/6 Pushkin Street, a liaison arrangement serviced solely by American agents: Alexis Davison, Assistant U.S. Air Attaché; William Jones, Second Secretary of the U.S. Embassy; Hugh Montgomery, Attaché, and Richard C. Jacob, Embassy official.

The British, incidentally, gave their senior partners a taste of their own medicine. At a rendezvous with